AMALGAM™ COMICS

THE ALL-NEW, ALL-DIFFERENT

X-PATROL™

ELASTI-GIRL!™

FERRO MAN!™

#1 APR 96

MILES CABLE!™

SHATTERSTARFIRE!™

BEASTLING!™

DESTINY AWAITS...

ROGER CRUZ 95

$1.95 US/$2.65 CAN 03505
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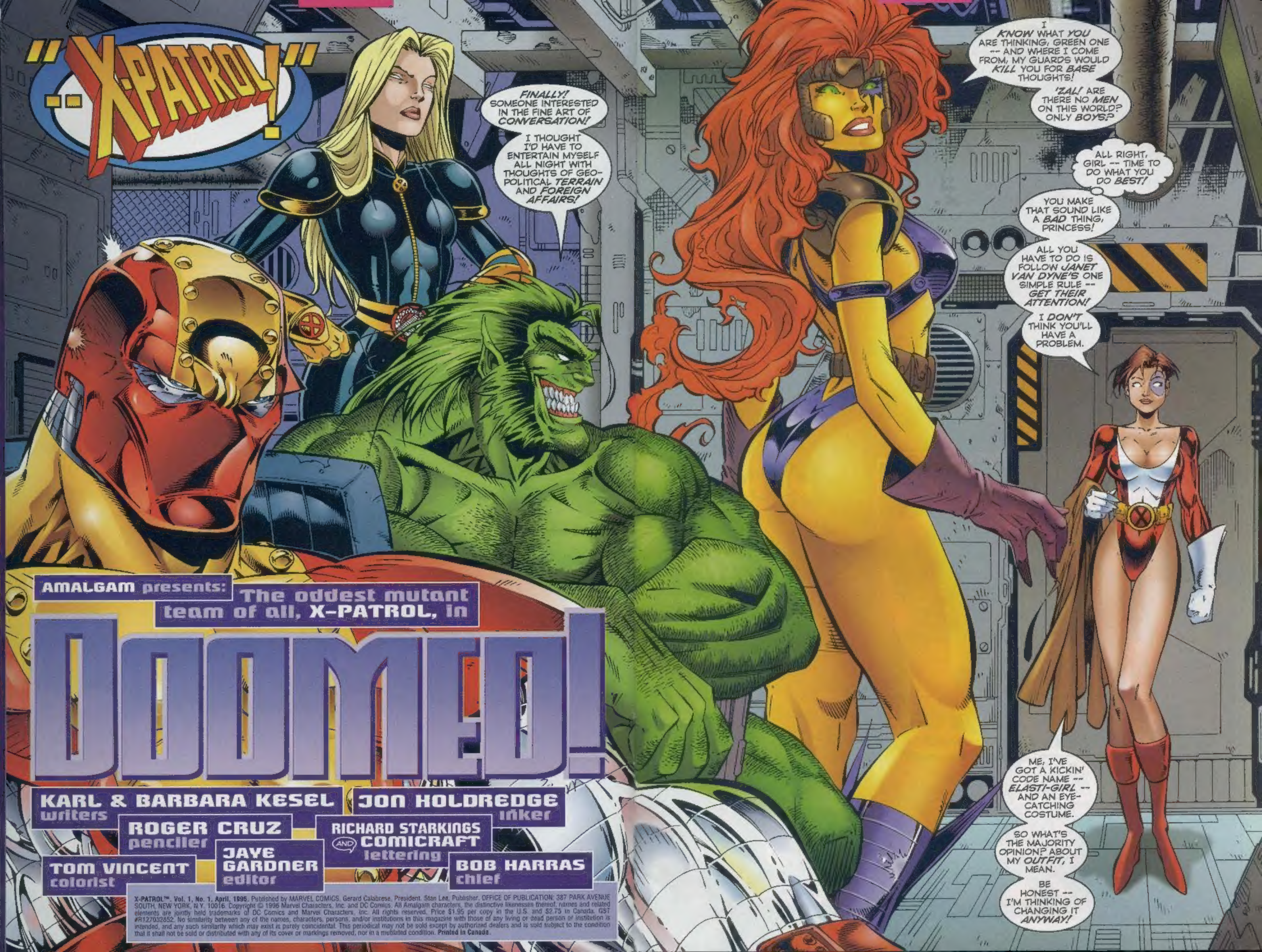
THE X BUILDING.
THEY SAY IT WAS BUILT FOR A WORLD'S FAIR, LONG AGO...
...THEN LEFT ABANDONED, WHILE NEW YORK CITY CREPT UP AROUND IT.
RUMOR SAYS IT WAS RECENTLY BOUGHT BY SOMEONE WITH ENOUGH MONEY TO KEEP THE DEAL QUIET.
BUT IF THERE WERE INSPECTIONS OR RENOVATIONS, THERE WAS NEVER ANYONE SEEN COMING OUT OR GOING INTO THIS "X BUILDING."
UNTIL TONIGHT.
BEEP BOOP BEEP
KLEK
WHRRR
Oooh... HOW TECHNO!
AND COLD, AND STERILE, AND DEPRESSING, AND --
AND WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?
FOUR BODIES, FIVE CHAIRS --
LOOKS LIKE I'M FASHIONABLY LATE FOR THE FIRST MEETING OF THE --


"X-PATROL!"
FINALLY! SOMEONE INTERESTED IN THE FINE ART OF CONVERSATION!
I THOUGHT I'D HAVE TO ENTERTAIN MYSELF ALL NIGHT WITH THOUGHTS OF GEO-POLITICAL TERRAIN AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS!
I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE THINKING, GREEN ONE -- AND WHERE I COME FROM, MY GUARDS WOULD KILL YOU FOR BASE THOUGHTS!
'ZAL! ARE THERE NO MEN ON THIS WORLD? ONLY BOYS?
ALL RIGHT, GIRL -- TIME TO DO WHAT YOU DO BEST!
YOU MAKE THAT SOUND LIKE A BAD THING, PRINCESS!
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS FOLLOW JANET VAN DYNE'S ONE SIMPLE RULE -- GET THEIR ATTENTION!
I DON'T THINK YOU'LL HAVE A PROBLEM.
ME, I'VE GOT A KICKIN' CODE NAME -- ELASTI-GIRL -- AND AN EYE-CATCHING COSTUME.
SO WHAT'S THE MAJORITY OPINION? ABOUT MY OUTFIT, I MEAN.
BE HONEST -- I'M THINKING OF CHANGING IT ANYWAY!
AMALGAM presents: The oddest mutant team of all, X-PATROL, in
DOOMED!
KARL & BARBARA KESEL writers
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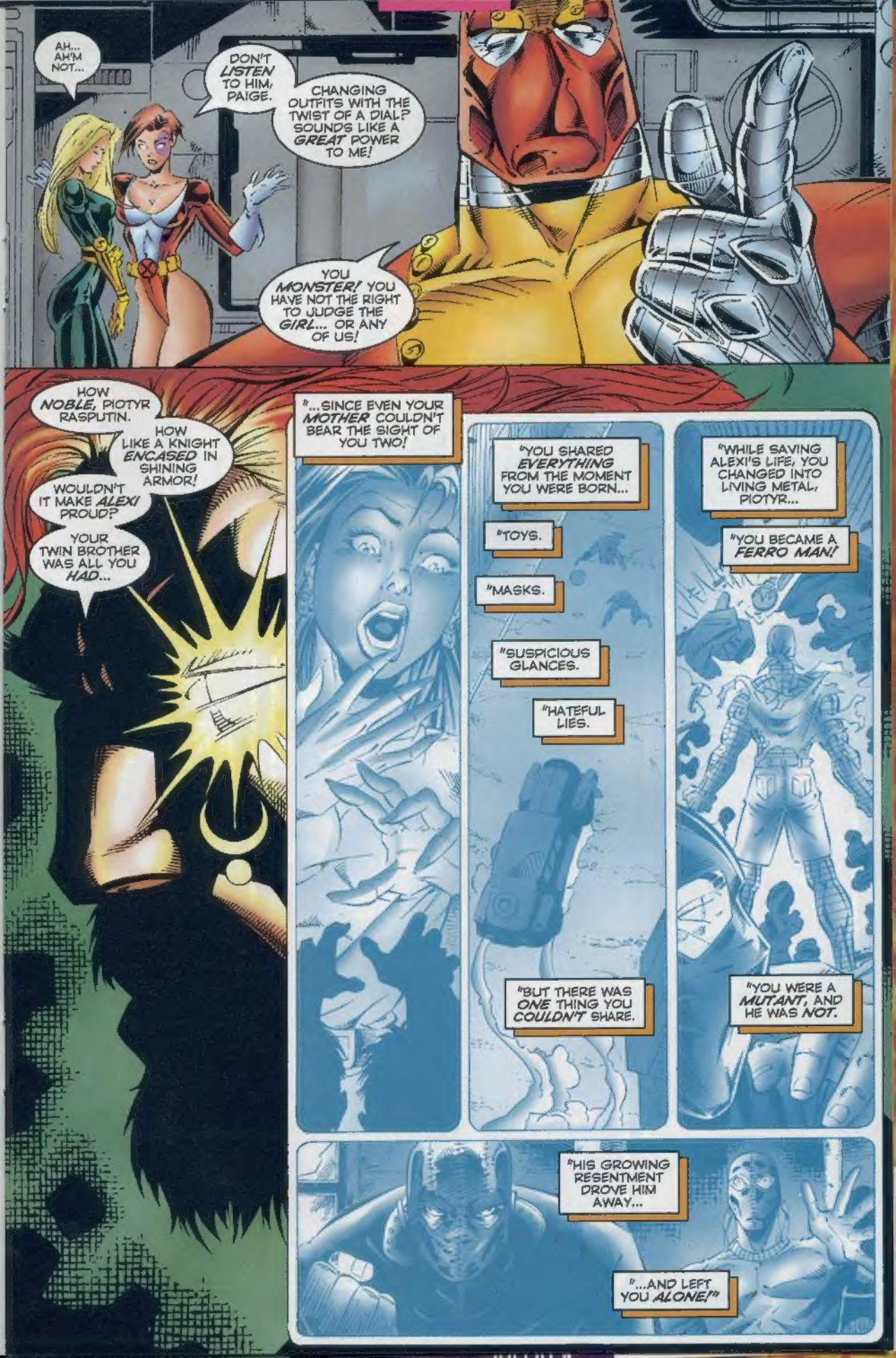
USELESS, INANE CHATTER!
I DEMAND TO KNOW WHY YOU CALLED ME HERE -- AND HOW YOU FOUND ME!
ME?
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND -- I DIDN'T DO ANY OF THIS -- HONEST!
LOOK -- THIS IS OBVIOUSLY THE GET-ACQUAINTED PORTION OF TONIGHT'S PARTY, SO WHY DON'T WE ALL RELAX...
...LET OUR HAIR DOWN... TAKE OUR MASKS OFF...
HI HO, SILVER -- THAT MEANS YOU!
NYET!
I MEAN TO SAY... NO, THANK YOU.
'ZAL!
THIS IS A WASTE OF MY TIME!
I AGREE. I CAN THINK OF MUCH BETTER WAYS TO WASTE YOUR TIME..!
YOU --
YEEK!
ZZRAK
-- DARE?!
NO ONE TOUCHES THE PRINCESS OF TAMOJORAN!
SKREENK
YOU WILL FIND MY FLESH A BETTER MATCH FOR YOUR BLADE, LITTLE CZARINA!
YEETCH! FINGERNAILS ON CHALKBOARD! FLASHBACK TO Mrs. MacTAGGERT'S FIRST GRADE --
Oh, THE HORROR!

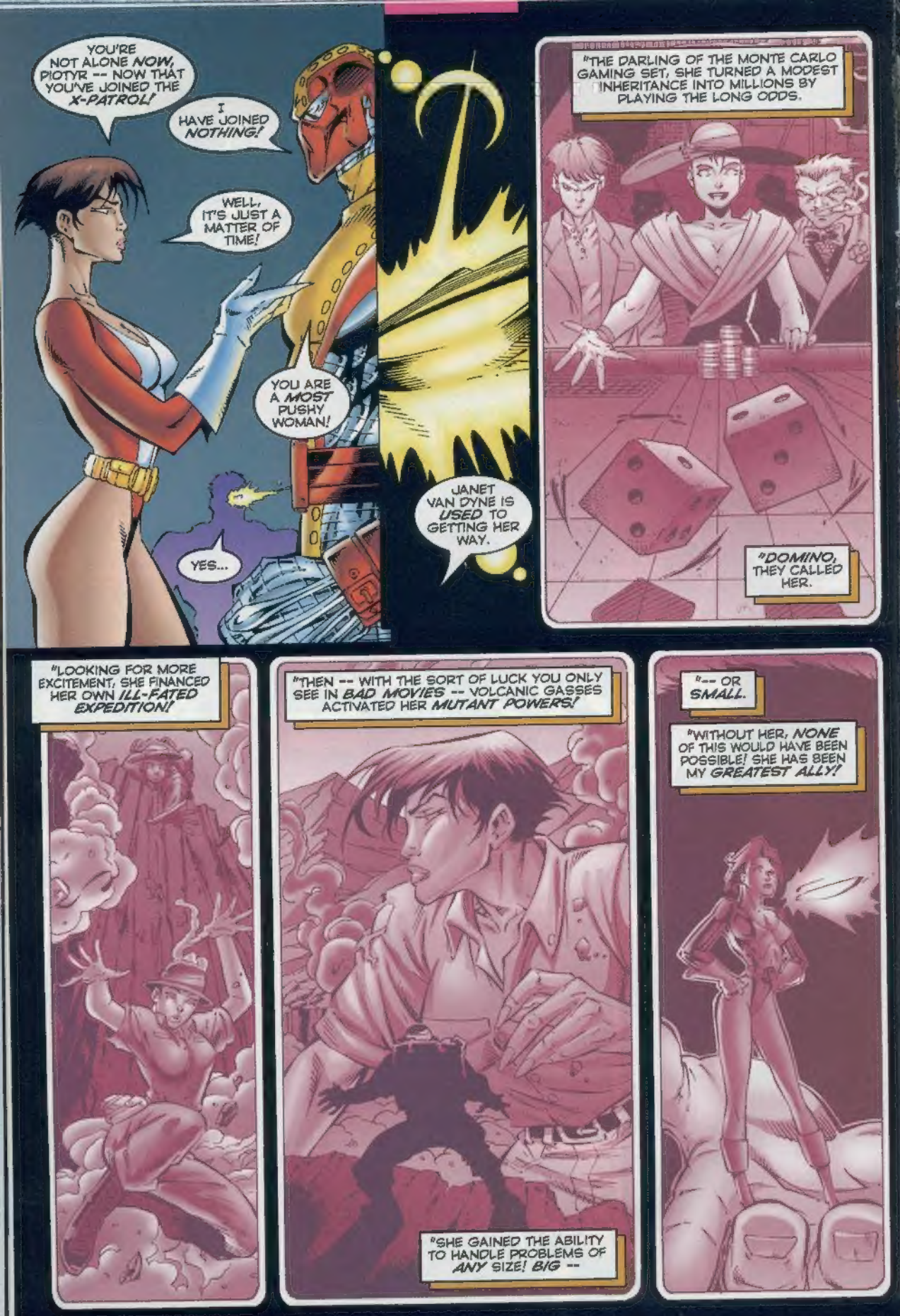
NOW, NOW -- PLAY NICE, EVERYONE!
THAT'S WHAT I HAD IN MIND IN THE FIRST PLACE!
BUT I'M SURE YOU CAN HANDLE THEM, JANET -- AFTER ALL, YOU'RE A BIG GIRL NOW!
THOSE WHO RULE BY THE SWORD ARE DESTINED TO SUFFER DEFEAT AT THE HANDS OF THE PEOPLE!
TIN-PLATED FOOL! THERE IS NOTHING AND NO ONE HERE WHO CAN EQUAL A BLADE FORGED ON MY WORLD!
KEEP THE DIAL READY, PAIGE! Y'ALL MIGHT NEED TO CALL FOR HELP RIGHT SOON...
THAT'S ENOUGH!
?!?
I STRONGLY RECOMMEND SAVING YOUR ENERGY AND AGGRESSION FOR... THE FUTURE.
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF. I'M THE ONE WHO SOUGHT YOU OUT AND INVITED YOU HERE --

-- AND THEN SPIED ON US FROM THE SHADOWS? BY 'ZAL--!
NO, SHATTERSTARFIRE, I WAS MERELY OBSERVING.
TAKING YOUR MEASURE... MAKING CERTAIN YOU WERE EVERYTHING --
"-- THE HEIR TO THE SUB-ATOMIC THRONE OF TAMOJORAN SHOULD BE!
"YES, I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU, SHATTERSTARFIRE, HOW YOU WEREN'T CONTENT TO BE A PUPPET RULER...
"...HOW YOU ADDED YOUR SWORD AND YOUR FIRE TO THE REBEL CAUSE, ONLY TO BE BETRAYED BY THOSE SAME TROOPS...
"...HOW YOU WERE SAVED AND BROUGHT TO THIS WORLD BY THE IRREVERENT SPIDER-BOY...
"...HOW MUCH YOU LONG TO RETURN HOME, AND HOW MUCH YOU FEAR YOU HAVE NONE TO RETURN TO!"

WHAT YOU SAY... IS TRUE.
YEAH. AND THE SAME STORY PULLED A FORTY SHARE ON THE ARACH-KID'S "IT'S AMAZING" SHOW!
...BUT WE ALL KNOW THAT YOUR GLIB DEMEANOR HIDES --
THOUGH IT'S CLEAR TO ME NOW THAT PAMELA LEE WILL NEVER FILL YOUR... uh... SHOES, PRINCESS!
YOU JEST, BEASTLING...
"-- THE CONVULSIONS OF A YOUNG HANK LOGAN, WRITHING WITH A DISEASE HE KNOWS WILL KILL HIM!
"WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER THROUGH THE FEVER DREAMS, MY FURRY FRIEND?
"CAN YOU SEE YOUR PARENTS' FACES, TAUT AND ASHEN AS THEY ADMINISTER THE EXPERIMENTAL SERUM THAT WILL SAVE YOUR LIFE --
"-- AND CHANGE IT FOREVER --
"-- MUTATING A MUTANT!
"GIVING YOU THE POWER TO TRANSFORM INTO THE SAME UNREAL CREATURES THAT HAUNTED YOUR FEVER DREAMS!"

YEAH, WELL... AT LEAST I STILL HAVE MY LOOKS!
BUT IT LOOKS AS IF WE WON'T HAVE ALL OUR GUESTS FOR LONG!
Uip!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, PAIGE GUTHRIE..?
"BACK TO THE APPALACHIAN CAVE WHERE YOU FOUND THE STRANGE ARTIFACT YOU NOW WEAR?
"I DOUBT IT TOOK YOU LONG TO DISCOVER THAT ALL YOU NEEDED TO DO WAS DIAL H-U-S-K, FOCUSING YOUR LATENT MUTANT ABILITY THROUGH THE DEVICE...
"...AND YOUR INNER SELVES WOULD QUITE LITERALLY BURST FREE!
"YOU FIRST BECAME WONDER-GIRL -- WHOSE NAME AND POWERS YOU INSTINCTIVELY KNEW, AS IS THE CASE WITH EACH NEW PERSONA YOU ASSUME.
"BUT I CAN'T HELP WONDERING -- ARE YOU SHOWING ASPECTS OF THE REAL PAIGE...
"...OR KEEPING HER HIDDEN BENEATH LAYERS OF COSTUMES AND CHARACTERS?"


AH... AH'M NOT...
DON'T LISTEN TO HIM, PAIGE.
CHANGING OUTFITS WITH THE TWIST OF A DIAL? SOUNDS LIKE A GREAT POWER TO ME!
YOU MONSTER! YOU HAVE NOT THE RIGHT TO JUDGE THE GIRL... OR ANY OF US!
HOW NOBLE, PIOTYR RASPUTIN.
HOW LIKE A KNIGHT ENCASED IN SHINING ARMOR!
WOULDN'T IT MAKE ALEXI PROUD?
YOUR TWIN BROTHER WAS ALL YOU HAD...
"...SINCE EVEN YOUR MOTHER COULDN'T BEAR THE SIGHT OF YOU TWO!
"YOU SHARED EVERYTHING FROM THE MOMENT YOU WERE BORN...
"TOYS.
"MASKS.
"SUSPICIOUS GLANCES.
"HATEFUL LIES.
"BUT THERE WAS ONE THING YOU COULDN'T SHARE.
"WHILE SAVING ALEXI'S LIFE, YOU CHANGED INTO LIVING METAL, PIOTYR...
"YOU BECAME A FERRO MAN!
"YOU WERE A MUTANT, AND HE WAS NOT.
"HIS GROWING RESENTMENT DROVE HIM AWAY...
"...AND LEFT YOU ALONE!"


YOU'RE NOT ALONE NOW, PIOTYR -- NOW THAT YOU'VE JOINED THE X-PATROL!
I HAVE JOINED NOTHING!
WELL, IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME!
YOU ARE A MOST PUSHY WOMAN!
YES...
JANET VAN DYNE IS USED TO GETTING HER WAY.
"THE DARLING OF THE MONTE CARLO GAMING SET, SHE TURNED A MODEST INHERITANCE INTO MILLIONS BY PLAYING THE LONG ODDS.
"DOMINO, THEY CALLED HER.
"LOOKING FOR MORE EXCITEMENT, SHE FINANCED HER OWN ILL-FATED EXPEDITION!
"THEN -- WITH THE SORT OF LUCK YOU ONLY SEE IN BAD MOVIES -- VOLCANIC GASSES ACTIVATED HER MUTANT POWERS!
"SHE GAINED THE ABILITY TO HANDLE PROBLEMS OF ANY SIZE! BIG --
"-- OR SMALL.
"WITHOUT HER, NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE! SHE HAS BEEN MY GREATEST ALLY!

SHE.. KNEW. FROM THE BEGINNING? SHE LIED TO US?
NOT LIED, EXACTLY, JUST... ONLY TOLD PART OF THE TRUTH.
THERE'S A DIFFERENCE.
SO WHAT'S NEXT, PEOPLE? BUY A VOWEL, OR HAVE VANNA AND PAT HERE TELL US THE WHOLE ANSWER?
I DEMAND ANSWERS FROM THE DARK ONE!
HOW DO YOU KNOW THE SECRETS LOCKED IN OUR HEARTS AND NEVER SPOKEN ALOUD?
MY NAME IS NILES CABLE, AND I AM FROM YOUR FUTURE!
DEMANDS AREN'T NECESSARY, FERRO MAN.
IN FACT, I'D BE HONORED TO TELL YOU!
YOU SEE, I COME FROM A PLACE WHERE MUTANTS BANDED TOGETHER FOR PROTECTION FROM A HATEFUL WORLD DETERMINED TO DESTROY THEM!
WHERE STORIES ARE PASSED FROM PARENT TO CHILD WITH AWE AND RESPECT!

HEAR ME -- SEPARATELY, YOU ARE CONSIDERED FREAKS AND MISFITS.
TOGETHER -- UNDER MY COMMAND -- YOU WILL BE HEROES OF DESTINY!
YOU WILL BE A LIGHT OF HOPE IN THE DARK FUTURE -- I HAVE SEEN IT!
JOIN ME -- AND BECOME THE LEGENDARY X-PATROL!
MMM!
IS IT JUST ME -- OR IS THERE SOMETHING ABOUT A CYBORG IN UNIFORM?
HE DON'T FLOAT MY BOAT, DARL'N' -- SORRY!
I MEAN, A TEAM OF UNWANTED OUTCASTS? I DON'T --
I FIND HIS WORDS... MOST STIRRING.
MY SWORD IS YOURS, CABLE!
AH'M WITH YOU TOO, SIR!
-- I DON'T THINK IT'S A BAD IDEA!
IN FACT, IT'S SOUNDING BETTER ALL THE TIME!
SO -- WHAT'RE WE WAITING FOR?
I'M GLAD YOU SIGNED ON TOO, PIOTYR -- MIND TELLING ME WHY?
THE REASONS ARE MINE, AND NOT YOURS, TO KNOW, CABLE.

POINT TAKEN

SPEAKING OF KNOWING -- THERE'S ONE THING I'D LIKE TO KNOW..

THIS HYPOTHETICAL LEGENDARY HEROES OF THE FUTURE STUFF? DOES IT COME WITH HYPOTHETICAL FAME AND FORTUNE?

SUCH AS BEEMERS, BEACH HOUSES, BABES..?

'ZAL'S MERCY! TELL HIM, CABLE! I CAN'T BEAR TO HEAR HIM ASK AGAIN!

SINCE YOU INSIST, BEASTLING --

-- I ONLY KNOW THE HIGH POINTS OF YOUR CAREERS. FOR INSTANCE --

-- I KNOW YOU WILL ALL DIE GLORIOUS DEATHS!

OH! WELL, THAT'S SOMETHING TO, AH...

LOOK FORWARD TO..

SO -- THIS PATROL FOLLOWS A MADMAN... OR IS ON A SUICIDE MISSION!

EITHER WAY, WE ARE DOOMED!

JANET--?

ALREADY TAKING THE HELM, MON CAPITAN!

PUT ASIDE YOUR DARK THOUGHTS, FERRO MAN!

YOU HAVE NOT SEEN BROTHER BLOOD'S SLAUGHTERING ZEALOTS! YOU HAVE NOT SURVIVED Mr. IMMORTUS'S CONCENTRATION CAMPS!

EVERYONE DIES!

WHAT MATTERS IS HOW YOU LIVE!

AND IT'S NOT LIKE NILES SAID WE'D DIE TODAY, PEOPLE! I'M BETTING WE'VE GOT YEARS AHEAD OF US!
AH GUESS THE THREAT OF DEATH DOES COME WITH THE COSTUME.
IF OUR SACRIFICE WILL LEAD TO A BETTER LIFE FOR THE MASSES...
THAT'S WHAT I LIKE ABOUT YOU GUYS -- ALWAYS LOOKING AT THE BRIGHT SIDE!
BAH! I DOUBT THERE'S ANYTHING ON THIS PITIFUL MUDBALL THAT COULD KILL ME!
DON'T BE SO SURE, PRINCESS
UNDERESTIMATING THIS ENEMY WOULD BE FOOLHARDY, SINCE WE'RE ABOUT TO FACE THE MALEVOLENT MENACE OF --
DOCTOR DOOMSDAY!
DOCTOR DOOMSDAY? THE MAN WHO FOUGHT THE J.L.A. TO A STANDSTILL?
THE MONSTER WHO CANNOT BE KILLED?
THANOSEID'S BEST BUD?
THAT DOCTOR DOOMSDAY?
THE SAME.
AND BY MY CALCULATIONS, WE SHOULD BE ENTERING HIS ISLAND-NATION'S AIRSPACE RIGHT ABOUT --

"-- NOW!"
OKAY, THE THING I WANT TO KNOW IS WHY THEY'RE CALLED "MISSILES" IF THEY NEVER MISS?
CAN'T SAY, BEASTLING -- BUT IT'S PRETTY CLEAR WHY LATVERIA ISN'T A BIG TOURIST DESTINATION!
YOU KNOW WE AREN'T HERE TO SIGHTSEE, JANET! WE HAVE TO GET INTO THAT CASTLE DOWN BELOW..
...ALIVE, IF POSSIBLE!
EASIER SAID THAN DONE, SIR!
DON'T WORRY, LADIES, I'M A FIRM BELIEVER IN SAVING WOMEN FIRST!
HEY! WATCH THE HANDS!
YO, PETEY -- NEED A HAND...er... CLAW?
NYET, BEASTLING! LEAVE ME TO BE FINDING --
-- A WAY INTO THIS FORTRESS!
KRUNCHUNK

FOLLOW FERRO MAN'S LEAD, 'STAR!
I FAIL TO SEE HOW THIS WILL RETURN ME TO MY HOME WORLD SO I CAN HELP MY PEOPLE!
YOU'LL GET BACK, PRINCESS -- BUT ONLY BECAUSE OF THE X-PATROL!
YOU LEAVE US -- YOU'VE LOST THEM!
A BRAVE BLUFF...
...BUT ONE THAT I'LL DARE NOT CALL, 'ZAL TAKE YOU!
MY PEOPLE NEED ME!
THAT'S RIGHT, PRINCESS -- AND RIGHT NOW, YOUR PEOPLE ARE THE PATROL!
...YOU'RE DEAD, MY METALLIC FRIEND! BUT BE HONORED TO KNOW YOU WERE SLAIN BY DOCTOR DOOMSDAY!
TELL ME -- ARE YOU ONE OF ERIK MAGNUS' CREATIONS?
I AM NO ROBOT, VILLAIN -- I AM A MUTANT... A MAN!
AH! IT MAKES NO MATTER -- YOUR QUEST WAS DOOMED FROM ITS START!
SO I HAVE BEEN TOLD...

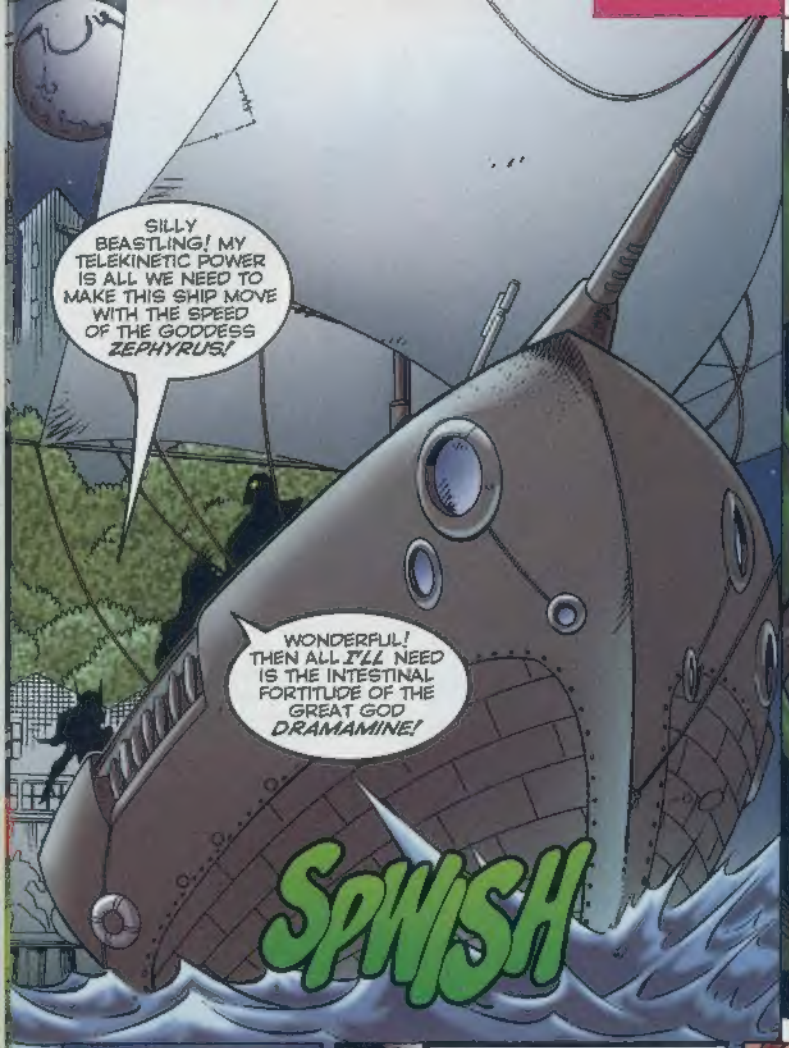
SKRAEEE
ONE SIDE, FERRO MAN!
PRINCESS--!
I KNOW, CABLE! I'VE FOUGHT BATTLES BEFORE!
MUCH THANKS, MY COMRADES
UNHHK!
SKR
WHUMP
VDOOM
IMPRESSIVE
BUT NO MATCH FOR MY BIO-ARMOR, WOMAN -- OR THE WEAPONRY CREATED BY MY GENIUS!
VDOOM
UNHAND ME, BEASTLING! THIS ONE CAN TAKE CARE OF HERSELF!
AND I SAY LET'S TAKE CARE OF DOC D-DAY!
WAIT, JANET...
AH... AH CAN'T PICK AND CHOOSE WHO AH CHANGE INTO -- BUT AH GOT A FEEL N' AH CAN HELP OUT HERE!
A SPIN OF THE H-U-S-K DIAL AN' WE'LL SEE...
YES! AH'VE BECOME -- POLARIS -- MISTRESS OF MAGNETISM!

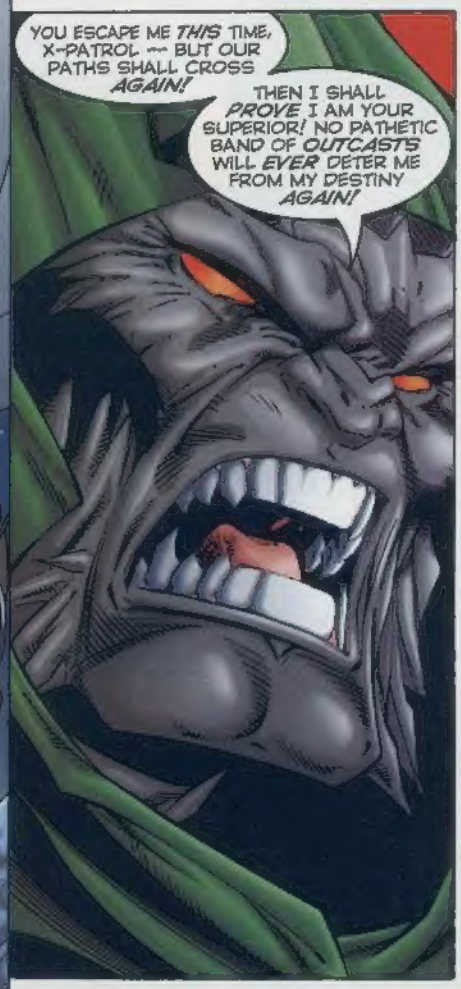
VRREEEENK
FEEL MY POWER, DESPOT! AND THE CRUSHING WEIGHT OF YOUR OWN MACHINES!
YOU CANNOT KILL ME, WOMAN -- NOT SINCE THE DAY ALIEN DNA COMBINED WITH MY OWN AND TRANSFORMED ME INTO THE MOST HIGHLY EVOLVED BEING IN EXISTENCE --
UNGH!
IT IS NOT MY INTENT TO KILL YOU, VILLAIN -- MERELY TO CAGE YOU!
BAD. WORSE THAN I EXPECTED...
WHAT IS IT, NILES?
A DEVICE TO BRIDGE DIMENSIONS... REALITIES...
DOOMSDAY MUST BE PLANNING TO GATHER AN ARMY TO CONQUER THIS WORLD.
AN ARMY OF TWISTED, SPLINTERED VERSIONS OF OUR OWN HEROES!
SECOND-RATE, PERHAPS, BUT IF HE BRINGS THEM HERE UNDER HIS CONTROL...

THIS MUST BE STOPPED! BUT I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN CRACK THE COMPUTER'S CODE IN TIME!
NOW, NILES -- YOU'RE FORGETTING ABOUT ME!
STEP AWAY FROM THAT CONSOLE, CYBORG!
I'LL JUST STOP THIS SILLY LITTLE WORLD COUP FROM THE INSIDE.
DO YOU MISBEGOTTEN MISFITS HONESTLY BELIEVE YOU CAN STOP ME?!
I AM DOCTOR DOOMSDAY! STRONGER, MORE POWERFUL, MORE BRILLIANT THAN ANYONE ELSE ALIVE!
IT ISN'T SIMPLY MY DESIRE TO RULE THE WORLD -- IT IS MY RIGHTFUL PLACE! IT IS MY DESTINY!

BUT NONE OF YOU SHALL LIVE TO SEE THAT!
NONE OF YOU SHALL EVEN WALK AWAY FROM HERE TODAY!
GHAAH--
KREK
NILES!
KREENCHEENK
MY PORTAL! ALL MY YEARS OF WORK!
YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS, WOMAN!
I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO SEND HER A BILL, DOC --
-- FROM THE HOSPITAL!
STILL YOU STRUGGLE TO DEFEAT YOUR OBVIOUS SUPERIOR? DELUDED FOOLS--!
A TAMOJORANEAN NEVER SURRENDERS, MONSTER!
YOU WILL NOT SOON FORGET MY BLADE... OR MY WRATH!
DOES HE STILL LIVE, MISS VAN DYNE?
HE'S BREATHING, BUT I'M AFRAID TO MOVE HIM, PIOTYR...
PERHAPS YOU NEED THE AID OF THE H-U-S-K DIAL --

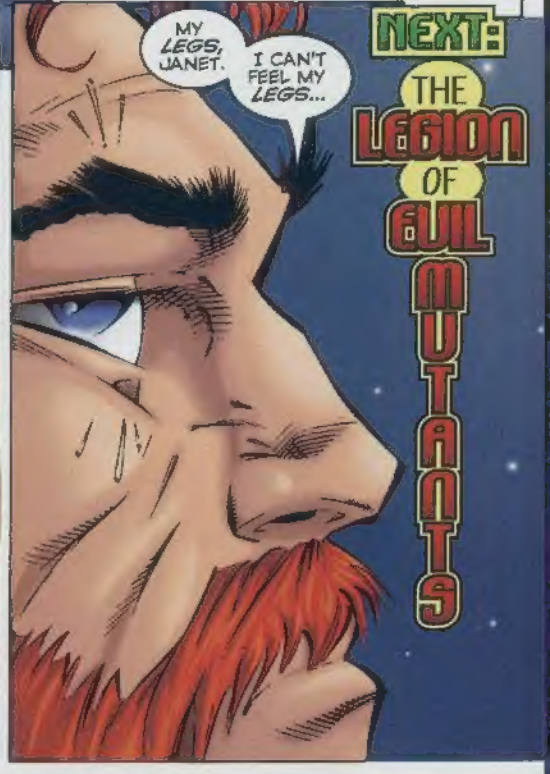
-- AND MARY MARVEL GIRL!
GOLLY! IT DOESN'T TAKE THE WISDOM OF MINERVA TO SEE THAT MY TELEKINESIS WILL SURE COME IN HANDY HERE!
UNTIL WE GET Mr. CABLE TO A NICER DOCTOR, AH CAN GENTLY FLOAT HIM!
GREAT IDEA, HUSK! WITH THE X-JET SCRAPPED, FLOATING'S THE ONLY WAY OFF THIS ISLAND!
X-PATROL! HEAD FOR THE HARBOR! WE ARE LEAVING!
OKEY-DOKEY, ARTI-CHOKEY!
KINDA HATE TO LEAVE WITHOUT COMPLETELY DESTROYING THE PLACE...
...WE MIGHT FIND OURSELVES INVITED BACK, KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
ONE CRISIS AT A TIME, BEASTLING! DOUBLE-TIME IT TO THE WATERFRONT!
WHERE'S SHATTERSTARFIRE?
SIMPLY SAYING FAREWELL -- FROM ONE MONARCH TO ANOTHER!
SKRAMM
IT FLOATS, IT'S HERE -- THIS IS OUR TICKET OUT, TEAM!
IS THERE ONE OF YOU ABLE TO PILOT THIS CRAFT?
PILOT, SCHMILOT -- ANYONE GOT THE KEYS?


SILLY BEASTLING! MY TELEKINETIC POWER IS ALL WE NEED TO MAKE THIS SHIP MOVE WITH THE SPEED OF THE GODDESS *ZEPHYRUS!*
WONDERFUL! THEN ALL *I'LL* NEED IS THE INTESTINAL FORTITUDE OF THE GREAT GOD *DRAMAMINE!*
SPWISH


YOU ESCAPE ME *THIS* TIME, X-PATROL --- BUT OUR PATHS SHALL CROSS *AGAIN!*
THEN I SHALL *PROVE* I AM YOUR SUPERIOR! NO PATHETIC BAND OF *OUTCASTS* WILL *EVER* DETER ME FROM MY DESTINY *AGAIN!*

LATER...
WE'LL BE IN CORTO MALTESE IN LESS THAN AN HOUR, NILES!
I CAN'T BELIEVE WE DID IT! EVERYTHING HAPPENED *EXACTLY* LIKE YOU *TOLD* ME IT WOULD!

NOT *EVERYTHING*, MY LOVE. PERHAPS I SHOULD HAVE STUDIED HISTORY MORE *CLOSELY*. PERHAPS WE'RE ALREADY *CHANGING* HISTORY...
WHAT DO YOU *MEAN*, NILES?


MY *LEGS*, JANET.
I CAN'T FEEL MY *LEGS*...
NEXT:
THE LEGION OF EVIL MUTANTS

PATROL LOG

Dear X-Patrol,

I can't believe you guys actually did it! After months of pleading (okay so maybe it was just a few weeks) who would of thought you guys would actually listen to little ol' me. Tres cool! I can't wait to see this team in action, especially with Beastling in it. He brings in that extra panache that the team certainly needs! One thing I'm semi-irked about is that Spider-Boy is not part of the team. What's going on, guys? I thought maybe Shatterstarfire and he had something going. Didn't I read a look of passion between them when he saved her hide from Gordanians way back in SPIDER-BOY AND HIS ASTONISHING FRIENDS #37? Or was it just one of those "I've stared into the sun for too long and now I'm seeing color dots in front of my eyes" looks? I've had them too and let me tell you they're not much fun! As for the rest of the ish, can't wait to pick it up! So until Ferro-Man starts to rust, Make Mine Amalgam!

Eric Stewart
144 Strangeway Lane
Syracuse, New York

Glad you like the team, Eric! Hope this issue lives up to your expectations. As for Shatterstarfire and Spider-Boy, sorry to disappoint you but I think that Spider-Boy is already spoken for. Check out the first issue of SPIDER-BOY for all the details. As for Shatterstarfire, we think she may have her eyes set on someone on the team. Now hmm...who could it possibly be?

X-Patrol dudes & dudettes,

O happy, happy day! What glee I felt at the announcement of the X-Patrol series! The dark and foreboding Niles Cable, the ever "party-on" gal, Elasti-Girl, the lovable and always utterly huggable Beastling, plus the warrior-like princess Shatterstarfire. All of my fave characters under one fabulous title. What more could I ask for? Well, gee, now that I mention it...I have only but a handful of questions that are desperately seeking answers. Of which I know you guys are just brimming with anticipation to oblige!

(1) What's up with Ferro-Man? I sort of got the impression that he was the reason behind that whole deal with Dark Claw in DARK CLAW #76. You were able to see a shadow of his mask just before the explosion occurred. Now how in tar-nation can X-Patrol have a possible bad guy on their team? Geez, didn't they do their homework when recruiting?

(2) Who's this Dial H.U.S.K character? Please don't tell me she's promoting one of the 1-800-COLLECT numbers!

(3) Are we going to see any future cross-over team-ups? A J.L.X and X-Patrol cross-over would just be too darn spiffy! (hint, hint)

4) Last question! Are we ever going to learn just who the heck this Niles Cable guy is? The suspense is killing me! Thanks for the info and keep up the good work!

Alexa Morales
164 calle 12
Punta Erines, Costa Rica

Alexa, we're happy to know that you like the team. Trust us, they need all the encouragement they can get! As for your questions, hey no problem, what else do we gotta do?

(1) Ferro-Man, a bad guy? Hmmm...we don't know about that one but some of Ferro-Man's past has been discovered in this issue, so *maybe* your question has already been answered!

(2) We hope this ish has given you some revelations as to the origin of Dial H.U.S.K. As for the rest of our precarious cast in X-Patrol, more will be discovered in later issues.

(3) X-Patrol and the J.L.X? We could see a possibility but let's let our heroes make their stand in the world first. Anyway, those guys over at J.L.X have their own problems to worry about!

(4) Oh, come on, don't ya like a little suspense? All will be known in due time. Hee, hee, we can see little beads of sweat already starting to form over the suspense of waiting!

Yo Amalgam people,

Ahhh! This is so wrong! Shatterstarfire in *X-Patrol!* — sigh — Oh the injustices this life toils upon us! I wished upon the starry night sky to grant her her own series but I *suppose* I shall have to make do with what is given. I just don't see her being tied down to a team and following orders. She's too much of a...shall we say, strongminded person to fear those little censor guys. We saw just how bad that can turn out when she paired up with Wonder Woman in MIGHTY AMAZONS #64 and they seemed to be friends! —sigh— I guess once more I shall have to pray to the tiki gods to guide you in the way of the light!

Marie Rosemount
54 Hackey Way
Whitewaters, Arkansas

Don't be too distressed, Marie! Shatterstarfire is part of the team for a reason. Her skills are invaluable and if anyone can keep her in line, Cable can! Anyway, she adds just a little touch of friction to keep the rest of the team on their toes!

Dear Amalgam

This is the first time for me writing into a letter column so please bear with me. First and foremost, I've got to say I've been a fan of Amalgam for years now! The AGENTS OF S.H.I.E.L.D was one of my all-time favorite books. I love the fact that Bruce Wayne is getting his own series. I've been reading Amalgam since the days of Bob Kannister and Kris Klairemount. But now onto the main reason for writing this letter. You can't believe how overjoyed I was when I learned that Niles Cable was going to be part of a regular series! He is one of the most intriguing characters Amalgam has produced to date. Who is he really? Where did he come from? What's the reason behind all his secrecy? Ever since his first appearance in Bruce Wayne, this character has never ceased to amaze me. One other thing, what's his connection with HYDRA? He seems to know too much about them and their operations. Also, I'm glad to see Janet Van Dyne in X-Patrol. Do I see a possible love interest between Janet and Niles? One final note, I strongly suggest a cameo appearance by Dr. Strangefate. I think his aura of mysticism and wonder brings an added effect to the dawning of a new era in the Amalgam universe. Well, that's it for now! Peace, joy, and happiness be with you!

Jim Jameson
88 Omega St
Normal, IL

Jim, if you like Dark Claw so much, be sure to check out TALES OF THE DARK CLAW coming out soon in a comic book store near you! Sorry to say we're going to have to keep that shroud of mystery around Cable; it just wouldn't be the same if all was revealed too soon. So you're just going to have to sit back and wait! Cable and Elasti-Girl? Pretty good idea. She does seem to have feelings for him but will someone else get in the way?! Tsk, tsk, tsk, you know the routine: watch, wait, and all will be revealed! As for Dr. Strangefate, he's got some pretty wacky things going on right now in his own series, so we don't think he'll be popping up around X-Patrol anytime soon.

Dear Amalgam people,

Just when you thought Amalgam couldn't possibly come up with another title, Bam! X-Patrol comes onto the scene. Ah, heck, as long as there isn't 13 variant covers I think I can shell out an extra two bucks a month! So, what's X-Patrol's glitch going to be in the Amalgam universe? Hopefully it's going to be finding a girlfriend for Beastling. Poor guy, he's always getting rejected! Maybe it's the green 'do?

As for the rest of the team, Husk looks like an interesting new player in the game. Can't wait to find out how she's going to fit in. Any relation to Sam Guthrie, a.k.a Torpedo? If so, is his death going to have any aftereffects on her performance in the heat of battle? Ahh, the irony of it all! And what about Ferro-Man? Ooh, that name just sends shivers down my spine! Will we ever see the man behind the mask or more importantly with a name like Ferro-Man, do we really want to? Okay, enough ranting! Keep up the good work, gang!

Susan Ahmadi
1854 Deadman Terr
Newport News, VA 23601

Hey Susan, we're excited about the first issue of X-Patrol, too. We hope you like it. X-Patrol's just trying to make the world a better place to live in, gosh-darnit! It seems to me Beastling has his sights already set on a few of his teammates! Now about Torpedo's relation to Miss Guthrie, very perceptive! But we don't think it's going to have any effect on her. She's just a strong li'l ol' southern gal! And as for Ferro-Man we will definitely see more of him (so to speak) in upcoming issues. So just hang tight!

AMALGAM

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